

## Message Text

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43/62  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 041811Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9093  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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CORRECTED COPY FOR REF (C)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PINT PO  
SUBJECT: ANTUNES SPEECH DRAWS FIRE

REF: (A) LISBON 7541 (DTG 031833Z NOV 76), (B) LISBON A-224  
DATED SEPT 3, 1976 (NOTAL)), (C) FBIIS LD032320Y

SUMMARY: MELO ANTUNES'S RENEWED ADVOCACY OF AN ACTIVE MILITARY  
ROLE IN POLITICS DREW A STRONG REACTION FROM AIR FORCE  
CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.  
ANTUNES'S MANY OPPONENTS WILL KEEP THE CONTROVERSY ALIVE,  
AND THE PRESIDENT MAY FEEL OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO  
WHAT IS BEING PERCEIVED AS A CHALLENGE.  
HOWEVER, EANES'S DIPLOMATIC AIDE TOLD POLCOUNS NOV 4  
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THAT HE DOUBTED EANES WOULD SEEK CONFRONTATION OVER THIS

ISSUE. EANES HAS THE VOTES IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, KNOWS THAT ANTUNES DOES NOT HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, AND WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEE ANTUNES SELF-DESTRUCT. END SUMMARY.

1. REACTIONS TO ANTUNES'S SPEECH: MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FIGURES REACTED STRONGLY TO MELO ANTUNES'S ADVOCACY OF A CONTINUING MILITARY ROLE IN POLITICS DURING HIS NOV 2 SPEECH AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION (CC) INSTALLATION (REF A).

-- AIR FORCE CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA: "ANTUNES'S SPEECH WAS A MANEUVER WHICH SOUGHT TO REVIVE THE VANGUARD ROLE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC). ANTUNES SOUGHT TO GIVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION; INTERVENE IN THE AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN BODIES; AND MOST SERIOUSLY, UNDERMINE THE PRESTIGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

-- LISBON MILITARY GOVERNOR VASCO LOURENCO: "I LIKED ANTUNES'S SPEECH. I DO NOT KNOW WHY MORAIS DA SILVA MADE HIS COMMENTS."

-- PRESIDENT EANES: "WHATEVER MORAIS DA SILVA SAID IS HIS OWN OPINION."

-- CABINET SPOKESMAN MANUEL ALEGRE: "THE NOV 3 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING DISCUSSED MELO ANTUNES'S SPEECH. I AGREE COMPLETELY WITH PRESIDENT EANES'S REJECTION OF PARALLEL POWERS. THE PS CONGRESS REJECTED MILITARIZED DEMOCRACY. THERE IS NO MID-POINT BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP."

-- SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) POLITICAL COMMITTEE: "ANTUNES'S REMARKS REVIVED OUTDATED IDEAS OF MILITARY HEGEMONY AND INTERFERED WITH SOVEREIGN ELECTED BODIES."

-- CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA: "ANTUNES'S SPEECH WAS DESTABILIZING AND INTENDED TO DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT."

2. RC SPOKESMAN CPT SOUSA E CASTRO TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE COUNCIL HAD DISCUSSED ANTUNES'S SPEECH AND THAT MORAIS DA SILVA HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG VIEWS. THE RC STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING THE MEETING NOTED THAT IN ADDITION IT HAD:

-- APPROVED IN GENERAL FORM A MILITARY AMNESTY DECREE AND CHARGED THE SERVICE CHIEFS WITH PREPARING THE FINAL VERSION.

-- DISCUSSED THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND NOTED THAT THE INSTALLATION OF THE CC FULFILLED THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THE RC TO CARRY OUT ITS CONSTITUTIONAL MISSION.

-- TOOK SEVERAL MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF SERGEANTS.

-- PROMOTED BG'S DUARTE SILVA (MILITARY GOVERNOR OF MADEIRA) AND THEMUDO BARATA TO GENERAL.

-- PROMOTED THE FOLLOWING, AMONG OTHERS, FROM COLONEL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL: REVOLUTIONARY COUNSELORS FRANCO CHARAIS AND GARCIA DOS SANTOS (CHIEF OF PRESIDENTIAL MILITARY HOUSEHOLD) AND SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER ARTUR BAPTISTA BEIRAO.

3. COMMENT: MORAIS DA SILVA TOLD CHARGE AND DATT NOV 2 (BEFORE ANTUNES'S SPEECH) THAT THE RC WAS DIVIDED AND THAT HE OPPOSED STRONGLY THE FACTION LED BY MELO ANTUNES.

MORAIS DA SILVA SAID THE SITUATION WAS CURRENTLY A STAND-OFF. HIS GROUP WOULD TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST THE MELO ANTUNES SUPPORTERS AS LONG AS THE RC CONTNUES TO DO NOTHING SIGNIFICANT. MORAIS DA SILVA DID NOT FAVOR MAKING CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION IN THE RC BECAUSE OF THE INEVITABLE POLITICKING WHICH WOULD RESULT WITHIN THE MILITARY.

4. ANTUNES'S MANY OPPONENTS WILL KEEP THE CONTROVERSY CAUSED BY HIS REMARKS ALIVE. THE PERCEIVED CHALLENGE TO THE PRESIDENT COULD LEAD TO A RESPONSE FROM EANES (REF A). HOWEVER, EANES'S DIPLOMATIC AIDE TOLD POL COUNS NOV 4 THAT HE DOUBTED EANES WOULD SEEK CONFRONTATION OVER THIS ISSUE. HE SAID EANES HAS THE VOTES IN THE RC, KNOWS THAT ANTUNES DOES NOT HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE CC, AND WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEE ANTUNES SELF-DESTRUCT.

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## Message Attributes

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